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25. — *European Acquaintance: being Sketches of People in Europe.*

By J. W. DE FOREST, Author of "Oriental Acquaintance," &c.
New York: Harper and Brothers. 1858. 12mo. pp. 276.

THIS volume is without pretension, yet it cannot fail of the favoring suffrages of a very numerous public. The author was in quest of health, and the greater part of his book is devoted to his experiences at the hydropathic establishments of Graefenberg and Divonne. At the former place we have a full-length portrait of Priessnitz, a minute description of his colony of invalids, and a detailed account of his mode of treatment. Priessnitz was evidently a man of native genius, an honest enthusiast, and a prudent and successful practitioner. He was not the ultraist in hydropathy which many of his disciples are, and varied his treatment according to the demands of individual cases, from an almost unintermitted deluge to "a slight rubbing with dampened towels," while his close attention to exercise and diet showed how far he was from regarding water as a panacea. Our author incidentally describes several other eccentric Silesian hospitals, one for the "Curd Cure," a system by which patients are fed on curdled milk, and "put asoak in it"; another for the "Straw Cure," where the sick are drenched with straw tea, and packed in straw beds; and yet another for the "Wine Cure," in which inebriation takes its daily place, with forced perspiration and alternate fastings and surfeits, as a remedial agent. There is probably no so luculent proof and test of the native strength of the human constitution, as its survivance and self-recuperative power under the onslaughts of the bolder forms of quackery. In addition to these hospital-sketches, the volume before us contains notices of a few distinguished persons, some piquant anecdotes, and two or three poems of unequal merit, the first of which, "The Island City," (Venice,) gives us a higher idea of the author's competency to deal with the profounder themes of thought and sentiment, than is verified by aught that succeeds it, whether in verse or prose.

26. — *The Poetical Works of SIR WALTER SCOTT. With a Memoir of the Author.* In 9 vols. Boston: Little, Brown, & Co. 1857. 16mo.

THESE volumes are a continuation of the series of British Poets, and are edited with the skill, thoroughness, and fidelity to which we have

more than once borne our testimony, on the appearance of previous volumes. The Memoir is from Adam and Charles Black's edition of Scott's poems. It is concise, yet sufficiently full for its place. The longer poems are here printed, with the Author's Introductions, and with notes from the various editions. It is believed that this is the first complete collection of Scott's poetry; and this contains, together with such poems as had been published separately, the short pieces that appeared in Lockhart's Biography, and all the poetry — no small amount in the aggregate, and embracing some of the choicest hymns, songs, and ballads ever written — in the Waverley Novels. We cannot estimate too highly the editorial skill which is rendering this edition of the Poets an honor to American taste and scholarship, no less than to the munificent enterprise of the publishers.

27. — *Christianity in the Kitchen. A Physiological Cook-Book.* By MRS. HORACE MANN. Boston: Ticknor and Fields. 1857. 12mo. pp. 189.

MRS. MANN's title is anything but a misnomer; for a well-ordered and healthy body is an antecedent condition to Christian action, and suffering from self-incurred dyspepsia is not among the forms of Christian endurance. Nay, more, errors and excesses in diet, while attended with less criminality of purpose, have a more deleterious influence upon the moral and spiritual nature, than sins of fraud or of violence. The latter imply depraved volition for the time being; the former cripple the power of right volition for the indefinite future. The high religious purpose of this book finds free expression in the Preface, which is the only part of it that we have read, or could read appreciatingly. The great laws of health there laid down are fundamental and irreversible, and there is every reason why they should be made the basis of culinary operations; nor can heed to the least of them fail of its office in effecting the highest and most enduring results in the realm of mind and character. Among the details of Mrs. Mann's proposed reforms, she lays chief stress on the rejection of corrosive alkalis, as saleratus and soda, from the list of resources for indolence or ignorance in the cook, and on the substitution of cream for butter and lard in pastry and for all culinary purposes. We believe it high time to preach a *crusade* — we use the word advisedly — against the alkalis; but we fear that we must wait for the cream-reform till we can Christianize the milkmen.